

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 15, 2007. Claims 14-16 and 21-33 are pending in the application and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ng, U.S. Patent No. 7,215,509. Applicants respond to the rejection as follows.

Claims 14-15 are cancelled. Claim 21 is amended to independent form and claims 16 and 22-27 as amended, are dependent upon claim 21.

Claim 21 and dependent claims 16 and 22-27 recite “A method comprising:
supplying an outward force in a first direction to an inner portion of a clamp; and
supplying a clamping force in a second direction different from the first direction
to install the clamp over a flange of a clamping interface.

In Ng a deflection portion 190 moves along a y axis 194 to impart a deflection force. The mounting tool 188 operates along the y-axis 194 independent from the deflection portion 190. Retention portion 192 operates along the x-axis 196 and holds a tool engagement region 198 of the disc clamp 136 in a fixed position, while the deflection portion 192 applies the deflection. Col. 7, line 14-35. Ng does not disclose supplying an outward force in a first direction and a clamping force in a second direction different from the first as claimed.

Claim 28 and dependent claims 29-31 recite positioning a disc clamp proximate to a spindle assembly, supplying a clamping force to the disc clamp along an inverted portion of the disc clamp spaced from inner and outer edges of the disc clamp, and installing the inverted portion of the disc clamp into a recessed groove of the spindle assembly. Claim 28 was rejected on the basis that Ng teaches supplying a clamping force to an inverted spring portion (146) to snap fit the inverted spring portion into a groove. As disclosed in Ng portion 146 forms an annular rib that is adjacent to discs to retain discs. Portion 146 does not snap fit into a groove of a clamping interface as claimed.

Claim 32 and dependent claim 33 recite:

moving the clamp along a sloped surface of an assembly tool to supply an outward force to an inner portion of the clamp so that the clamp fits over a flange on a clamp assembly; and

applying a force to the clamp spaced from the inner portion of the clamp to release the clamp from the assembly tool to snap fit the clamp into a groove of the clamp assembly.

As previously discussed in Ng, retention portion 192 operates along an x-axis 196 to either retain or release the disc clamp 136 from the mounting tool 188". Mounting tool 188 and deflection portion 190 move along the y-axis 194. Ng does not teach moving the clamp along a sloped surface of an assembly tool to supply an outward force to the inner portion of the claim as claimed. Based upon the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 16 and 21-33 are respectfully requested.

New claims 34-35 are added. Favorable action with respect to new claims 34-35 is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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